



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/806,035	03/26/2001	Rabah Arhab	1200.463	3431
7590	06/28/2005		EXAMINER	
Longacre & White 6550 Rock Spring Drive Suite 240 Bethesda, MD 20817			NGUYEN, XUAN LAN T	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3683	

DATE MAILED: 06/28/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/806,035	Applicant(s) ARHAB, RABAH	
	Examiner Lan Nguyen	Art Unit 3683	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 February 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 and 9-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 6,7,9-18 and 30 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 and 19-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 March 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-5 and 19-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Zeidler.

Re: claim 1, Zeidler shows a hydrokinetic coupling apparatus, as in the present invention, comprising: having casing 12 provided with a transverse wall 24, able to be fixed with respect to rotation to a driving shaft 14 via a number of elements in between; a turbine wheel 17 fixed to a hub 31, able to be fixed with respect to rotation to a driven shaft 20; a piston 23 disposed between said wall and said turbine wheel for its disengageable connection to the transverse wall wherein the piston is axially connected to the external periphery of the casing by elastic tongues 50 wherein the tongues are rigidly fixed to the piston and to the transverse wall thereby providing no degree of freedom between the tongues and either the piston and the transverse wall as shown in figure 4 and column 3, lines 17-35.

Re: claims 2 and 3, as shown, the tongues are tangentially and radially oriented.

Re: claim 4, as shown, the tongues are distributed in several sets, each including at least one tongue.

Art Unit: 3683

Re: claim 5, as shown, the tongues are above the second surface.

Re: claim 19, as shown, pieces 45 are distinct from the tongues.

Re: claim 20, as shown, pieces 45 and tongues 50 are connected together similar to Applicant's.

Re: claim 21, Zeidler shows rivets 51.

Re: claim 22, Zeidler shows an annular space between the piston 23 and the hub 31.

Re: claims 23-27, Zeidler shows torsion spring 29, disc 30, friction linings 25, 25; ferrule 59.

Re: claims 28 and 29, Zeidler further shows friction means 58 to secure the piston 23 to the hub 31 as claimed.

Response to Arguments

3. The amendment to claim 1 has overcome the 112, 1st paragraph rejection in that claim 1 now clearly states that there are no degree of freedom between the tongues and the piston or there are no degree of freedom between the tongues and the transverse wall; and there could be some degree of freedom between the piston and the transverse wall.

4. Due to the amendment to claim 1, a new ground of rejection is set forth above.

5. Applicant is reminded of the Revised Rule 37 CFR 1.121 for Amendment Practice effective 7/30/2003 wherein the status of each claim must be correctly identified. The amendment submitted 2/17/05 did not comply to the revised rule in that

Art Unit: 3683

the claims have been incorrectly identified, especially claims 6, 7, 9-18 and 30 which have been withdrawn.

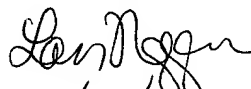
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lan Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-7121. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8 to 4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles Marmor can be reached on (571) 272-7095. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Lan Nguyen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3683


6/20/05